Problem being faced by the shrimp industry

630. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that shrimp industry is in serious trouble due to recurring white spot viral disease, anti-dumping duties, fall in shrimp prices in international markets, antibiotic residue problems and custom bonds etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by Government on the request of Andhra Pradesh Government for waiver of the repayment of financial assistance availed by fourteen shrimp trading companies to an extent of Rs. 426.33 lakhs extended by the Marine Product Export Development Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for loan waiver in respect of all similarly placed companies which availed of benefits under the equity participation scheme has been examined, 7 out of a total of 33 such, units have honoured repayment. In the remaining cases, the process of recovery is in different stages of judicial process.

Marine products exports to US

631. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the marine products exports to US during 2006-07 fell 21.40% to 43,851tonnes against 56,817 tonnes in the previous year;

(b) if so, why such a situation has arisen where number of marine product exporters of US came down from 107 in 2005-06 to 80 in 2006-07;

(c) whether effective efforts have been launched during the current year to increase our marine products to USA; and

(d) what was out total marine products exprots globally during 2006-07 and what percentage was to US alone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Marine product exports to the US during 2006-2007 fell by 21.60% to 43,758 tonnes as against 55817 tonnes in 2005-06. The fall in marine exports to the US is attributable to the imposition of anti-dumping duty and the enhanced continuous customs Bond Requirement (EBR) by the US on Indian shrimp exports. Consequently the number of marine product exporters also declined from 107 in 2005-2006 to 80 in 2006-07.

(c) The Government is extending financial and other assistance to the seafood exporters in filing suits against the anti-dumping order of the US Government, lifting of the EBR by the USA and in filing appropriate responses in administrative reviews for either withdrawal or reduction of anty-dumping duty. As a consequence of efforts made, the anti-dumping duty has been brought down for the first period of review from 10.17% to 7.22% for India and further down to 1.09% for the second period of review. On 29 February, 2008, in response to a complaint filed by India, a dispute settlement Panel of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)